

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-27 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this response, claim 21 has been amended, and claim 25 has been cancelled. Claims were amended and/or cancelled to more clearly delineate intended subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 1-20, and indicated that claims 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Assignee would like to thank the Examiner for identifying allowable subject matter. Additionally, independent claim 21 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claim 25. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-23 and 27 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nahar (US Patent No. 6,481,626). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 21, in which at least a portion of limitations of allowable claim 25 have been included in claim 21 obviates this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-23 and 27 are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of claims 21-23 and 27, and allow all pending claims to proceed to allowance.

Comments On Statement Of Reasons For Allowance

The Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by Assignee. Assignee agrees that claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the Examiner; however, Assignee takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the Examiner, other than positions Assignee may have previously taken during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Therefore, the Examiner's reasons for allowance should not be

attributed to Assignee as an indication of the basis for Assignees' belief that claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the Assignee to disagree with the Examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the Assignee agrees with or acquiesce in the reasoning of the Examiner, here, by this document, Assignee is expressly making clear that no such agreement or acquiesce is present.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter these amendments so that the application may proceed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

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